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Equipped with the best scholarly resources of our new time, Mr. Bruce has brought a fine tribute to modern history. Virginians may well study the social development of the old days, in working out their future under its new and prescribed conditions.

WM. B. WEEDEN.

Cours élémentaire de statistique administrative. Élaboration des statistiques—organisation des bureaux de statistique—éléments de démographie. By DR. JACQUES BERTILLON. Paris : Société d'éditions scientifiques, 1895. 8vo. pp. iii + 599.

THE recent almost simultaneous contribution to the literature of statistics by Dr. von Mayr in Germany, Professor Mayo-Smith in the United States, and in the present work by Dr. Bertillon in France gives evidence of the growing estimation in which the science of statistics is held. The feature of all of these works is that they are almost exclusively devoted to a consideration of the science or technique of statistical work rather than to a compilation or analysis of statistical material.

Probably the most hopeful feature of this activity is the recognition of the fact that the direction of statistical work requires not only a high, but a quite technical training, in order to produce the best results. Dr. Bertillon's work is an especially striking illustration of this fact. In 1889 the General Statistical Council of France recommended that all candidates for certain offices in the administrative departments whose duties pertained to the preparation of reports be examined on the general principles of statistical science as a part of their examination for appointment or promotion. This recommendation was adopted by the government, and in consequence the council was directed to prepare a syllabus of points that should be covered by the examination. It was to supply a work giving the information called for by this program that Dr. Bertillon undertook the preparation of the present volume. It is as a text-book, then, that he asks his work to be considered.

The work is divided into five distinct parts: I. Generalities, including the history of statistics; II. The Technique of Statistics; III. Methods of Using Statistical Material; IV. The Organization of Statistical Bureaus in France and Other Countries; and V. The Elements of Demography.

Any work by Dr. Bertillon is of value. The method here pursued, however, cannot but prove disappointing, no matter from what point of view it be regarded. The work is essentially defective in that it lacks unity of purpose. In attempting to write an elementary text-book for officials requiring a certain amount of knowledge concerning statistical methods, the author has been unable to restrain his desire to write at the same time a treatise on the science of statistics. The result is that the work is not wholly satisfactory from either standpoint. One or two examples will make this point clear. While the book is elementary, in parts, the author does not hesitate to make elaborate digressions into subjects of the most technical character, such for instance, as in his consideration of the theory of probabilities and of the phonetic method of writing proper names; or to introduce matter in which the professional statistician is alone interested, as the problem of nomenclature and classification of diseases and occupations. On the other hand, viewed as a treatise, the book is incomplete, a number of important statistical questions being either left untouched or inadequately considered.

In spite of the professed intention of the author, it is as a treatise rather than as a text-book that the work is of greatest interest. The text-book instruction shows a lack of serious study of what should be the purposes of such a work. What Dr. Bertillon says is all excellent, but little or no consideration is given to a great many points of the utmost importance to those having charge of the compilation of statistical material. Though diffuseness is one of the great defects of foreign statistical publications the need of and methods by which condensation can be secured are here given but scant attention. Such questions as the necessity of making tables absolutely clear and as far as possible self-explanatory, of not showing in the same table unrelated facts, of making box-headings simple, and so written that they can always be read without turning the book to one side, of regulating the size of tables so that the insertion of slip leaves can be avoided—all points of importance in the technical presentation of statistical data—are in general not even alluded to. It is only fair to the author, however, to say that many of these points are not recognized by European statisticians, and Dr. Bertillon is himself guilty of disregarding most of them; while, on the other hand, matters of statistical form are in the United States carried to a degree of excellence not approached in European statistical work.

It is not intended, however, by these criticisms to give the impression that this work is not of value to the student, or that the author is not entitled to great credit for the clearness with which he has presented the importance of observing certain rules in the collection and presentation of statistical material. In that portion of the work, moreover, where Dr. Bertillon has devoted himself to the consideration of technical statistical problems, he has done a work deserving of the highest praise.

There is at the present time probably no statistician who has done so much or so good work in establishing the basis for international comparisons of statistical data as Dr. Bertillon. In his efforts, chiefly through the International Statistical Institute, to induce the different nations to adopt similar classifications and methods of presenting material, he has put all those interested in statistical work in his debt. It will be the invariable testimony of all those concerned in any way with statistical work that the greatest difficulties encountered are those connected with classification and nomenclature. The two most notable examples of this are the classification of industries and occupations and of diseases. Dr. Bertillon has attacked these two problems in a way and with a thoroughness attempted by no other author. His views of these questions have been presented at various meetings of the International Statistical Institute, but are here given in their most authoritative and orderly way.

Briefly stated, Dr. Bertillon's system consists of the construction of a list of occupations or diseases arranged in groups and sub-groups in which the classification is carried out in as great detail as practicable. Each group and sub-group bears a title, so that according to the wish of the statistician the material may be presented in greater or less detail and yet be comparable with any other investigation pursued under the same classification. The essential feature of the system, however, consists of a dictionary and index which accompany the list and serve as a key to its utilization. While the classification may contain but a hundred or a thousand terms, the dictionary and index are expected to embrace as far as possible every designation in use. The dictionary is intended to give these terms in alphabetical order with the designation of the group to which each belongs. The index gives the same terms classified according to groups in order that an absolute indication may be given of what occupations or diseases should be included under each term of the classification. The necessity for the

index lies in the fact that the dictionary cannot be made complete. Local or newly created terms are constantly being met with, and the index enables the enumerator to determine to which classes they should be assigned. Dr. Bertillon explains fully and convincingly the system elaborated by him and reproduces his suggested lists of occupations and diseases. The work necessary for their preparation must have been enormous, and their importance cannot be over-estimated. Without some such lists international comparisons are impossible. It should be stated that Dr. Bertillon's work has received the approval of the International Statistical Institute. Especial attention has been here directed to this question, as it and his related discussions of other elements involved in so collecting and presenting statistical information as to permit of international comparisons undoubtedly constitute the part of greatest interest to the American student.

Mention should also be made of his study of the methods of census taking in different countries and of the chapters giving the history and organization of statistical bureaus in Europe and the United States. Though the information given in the latter is not as complete as one could desire, it is still of great value to students desiring to obtain a knowledge of statistical work in other countries. In his chapter on the elements of demography the author is on his special ground and makes the most of his opportunities.

Finally, it should be said in conclusion, that Dr. Bertillon's work is of value—every word of it. It is only to be regretted that he did not either produce a simple text-book laying down the general rules of statistical work and eschewing debatable questions or points of interest only to statisticians in particular branches of work, or give us the benefit of his universally recognized statistical attainments in a general treatise on statistical science.

WILLIAM FRANKLIN WILLOUGHBY.

The Nature of the State. By W. W. WILLOUGHBY, PH.D. New York: Macmillan and Co., 1896. 8 vo. pp. xii+448.

THERE are two methods by which politics may be studied. We may examine the characteristic features of political institutions as they have existed in the past; or we may try to discover the essential nature of the state from the necessary relations of men in society, and thus to